

HOW TO: COLLABORATIVELY PLAN A SCHOOL GARDEN USING PINTEREST

EMILY HESTNESS

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INTRODUCTION

School gardens are becoming a popular way to take science learning beyond the classroom. The sustainability of a school garden depends on careful advance planning and collaboration that includes all stakeholders.

By using Pinterest, a web-based bookmarking tool, teachers, students, families, and other participants can share ideas and resources to guide decision-making about the development, care, and use of their school garden.

STEP 1: ASSEMBLE YOUR GARDEN PLANNING TEAM

This could include teachers, students, administrators, maintenance staff, families, and community volunteers.

STEP 2: OPEN PINTEREST ACCOUNTS

Go to Pinterest.com and open accounts for all team members over age 13. If children under 13 are on the team, they will collaborate with their teachers or other adults to contribute garden ideas.

STEP 3: GET INSPIRED

Create an initial "Garden Inspiration" Pinboard. Invite all team members with Pinterest accounts to collaborate on the board. Over the course of a week, each team member will pin or re-pin images to the board. These images should represent team members' vision and goals for the school garden. Younger students can work with teachers or parents with Pinterest accounts to share their ideas.

Difficulty:
Easy

Time:
Over the course of several weeks

Who:
School garden planning team members; can include teachers, students, families, and community members

Materials:
Computers and access to the website Pinterest.com



STEP 4: VISION, GOALS, AND LOGISTICS MEETING

Convene a meeting of your planning team. Display the “Garden Inspiration” Pinboard and have members discuss their additions. From this discussion, articulate the group’s goals and vision for the school garden. Discuss logistics, such as where the garden will be located, whether it will be in-ground, raised beds, or containers, and who will take part in the maintenance.

STEP 5: DESIGN YOUR GARDEN LAYOUT

Map the outdoor area where your garden will be located. Take note of the sun, soil, water, and elevation conditions.

STEP 6: SELECT VEGETABLES, HERBS, AND FLOWERS TO PLANT

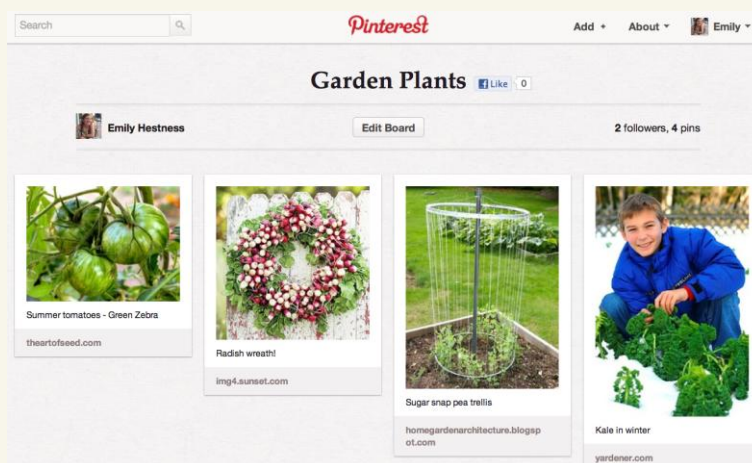
All interested team members can take part in researching plants that will thrive in your specific context and support the vision and goals of your garden. Create a new “Garden Plants” pinboard and invite all participants to collaborate. As team members find plants they would like to include, they can add their ideas to the pinboard. Once the team has selected and agreed upon plants, create a simple seasonal calendar indicating what will be planted when.

STEP 7: RESEARCH GARDEN CARE

With your plant list in hand, search for information on the care of each plant you want to include in your garden. Create a “Plant Care” pinboard with links to the care information for each plant. This task can be split up amongst the garden team, with each member researching a plant or two, then adding to the board.

STEP 8: COLLECT TEACHING RESOURCES

Create a “Garden Education” pinboard for teachers to add lesson plans and activities relevant to the health and science curriculum and the garden plan. Consider the planting calendar to think about when lessons can be integrated.



STEP 9: COLLECT CULINARY INSPIRATION

Ask each team member to think about how the produce from the garden can be used. Create a “Culinary Inspiration” pinboard for collaborative postings of recipes using your selected vegetables, as well as information about their nutritional value.



STEP 10: PLANT YOUR GARDEN!

With your plan in mind, you are ready to get outside to plant, grow, harvest and enjoy your garden!